

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 8, 10 and 12 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 7, 9, 11 and 14 are currently being amended.

Claim 16 is currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends, adds and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending, adding and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 7, 9, 11 and 13-16 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 10, 12 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 7 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 10, whereby presently pending claim 7 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 10. Claim 9 depends from claim 7, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Further, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 11 has been amended to include the features of “objected to” (and now canceled) claim 12, whereby presently pending claim 11 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 12. Claim 13 depends from claim 11, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending claim 14 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and certain features of claim 12 (to thereby provide antecedent basis for “first and second FIFOs” recited in claim 14). Please note that the features of intervening claim 13 were not included into claim 14, since those features were not deemed necessary to put claim 14 in allowable form. Claim 15 depends from claim 14, and thus that claim is also believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 7-9, 11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164988 to Enomoto. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claims 7, 11 and 14 as discussed above in the “Indication of Allowable Subject Matter” section of these Remarks, this rejection is now believed to be moot.

New Claim:

New claim 16 has been added to recite features described in paragraph 0042 of the specification.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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